

J. H. PENDLETON, EDITOR.
OLIVER L. TAYLOR, EDITOR.

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WHEELING, VA.—
TUESDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 9, 1852.

For Local, River, Telegraphic and Commercial Intelligence, see this page.
For Foreign, Choice Literary Selections and Variety, see First Page.

THE CAUSES OF OUR DEFEAT.

It will hardly prove ourselves or our readers to detain them with vain speculations as to the causes of our late Waterloo defeat, and indeed we cannot at once decide, that the future would be a better period for examining into these matters when we have entirely recovered from our hard fall, and when the facts which produced it had been more fully discovered in the different sections of the country, were it not that it is alike to us and ourselves and our fellow citizens, to express our abiding confidence in the integrity of the principles of our platform, no matter what influence it may have had in producing our late disaster. We have long since endorsed that platform, not because we thought it popular, nor because we thought it would catch the abstractionists of the South or the fanatics of the North, but because we believed it to contain principles alike in harmony with the Constitution and the rights of all parts of our Union. We hesitate not to say, that without a platform, and without one nearly at least, if not exactly similar to that adopted by the Baltimore Whig Convention, we never would, for one moment have supported the nominees of that Convention. We even go further, and assert that had not that platform endorsed the fugitive slave law, had it not declared for the finality of the Compromise measures of the session of 1850, we would not have touched it, or the nominees placed upon it. We advocate principles first, men next, and if there is in the broad pages of the Constitution a provision sacred to the existence of our Union, if there be found in it one principle upon which, above all others, we are prepared to stand or fall, that principle is contained in the section of the Constitution which solemnly provides for the rendition of fugitives from justice, and from labor. That clause was the great Compromise clause of the Constitution. Without it, the Constitution never could and never should have been secured. Upon this clause rests the peace, the security of the entire South and the very existence of our Union; and we believe we speak the sentiments of our entire population of both parties, when we say, that as long as our Constitution contains that solemn guaranty to the South, so long as the flag of our country waves over a Union under that Constitution, so long will the citizens of Wheeling stand by this pledge, and fall if need be in defence of this Compromise compact of our fathers.

We are Union men all, we are compromise men all, and above all we are Virginians, and so long as we remain such, so long will we stand or fall with Virginia in defence of her Constitutional rights, so long will we advocate the fugitive slave law, a law passed in conformity with this corner stone clause of the Constitution, and if that law from any cause should fall short of its proposed end, namely, the recovering of all slaves who escape from the South, we will then go with him who goes the farthest in favor of so amending it that it will to the letter subvert the objects of the Constitution and protect the rights and prosperity of the South. We were born and bred in Virginia, and we expect to die beneath the flag which has inscribed upon it "sic semper tyrannis," and so long as we respect the memory of our revolutionary fathers, so long as we glory in the right and the just fame of our Virginia, so long will we stand by her in the defence of her rights and in the protection of the property, solemnly guaranteed her by the Constitution of our Union. We speak for ourselves and we believe that the whole body of our citizens will stand or fall with Virginia in the support of the rights, so solemnly guaranteed by the Constitution.

We advocate platforms always when there is any room for doubt as to any party principle, and we approve of and did advocate the Whig Baltimore platform as containing no one principle more important and more indispensable to the rights of the South and the duties of the North, than the noble, manly and final stand which it took upon the compromise measures in general, and the fugitive slave law in particular.

We advocate openness and boldness in every thing, and we professing the Whig party defeated, as it has been, upon its own and mainly platform of honest principles, rather than to have held it successful, by covin and deception.

BILLY BOWLES IN FLORIDA.—The Newark Mercury of Saturday states that a gentleman in that city who has a son in Florida, has received a letter from him, dated Fort Meade, Florida, from which we make the following extract. It would seem that Billy has very little disposition to leave Florida.

Billy Bowles, Grand Sachem of the Seminoles in Florida, has returned to Tampa, and taken passage for Fort Myers. His joy on embarking for Fort Myers knew no bounds. He leaped and yelled, cursed and swore like a crazy man; and during the crossing he tore a new suit of citizen's clothes into a thousand ribbons. About this time a soldier at Tampa said, "Now, Billy, give us the war whoop." Billy stood as if riveted to the spot, his eyes seemed to send forth sparks of fire, and drawing himself up to his full height, he exclaimed in a low, yet passionate voice, "By blood I mean you hear the war whoop, your blood will curdle in your veins." In reply to a question put to him by an officer at Tampa, he said, "I will leave Florida, Florida, are you?" He answered, with a very knowing laugh, "Oh, yes, I told them so in Washington; but I don't if I do, though." If he don't go, and that very soon, no one will find a way to take him away, either by steamboat or by blood. They can take their choice.

A shock of an earthquake was felt in Richmond, and adjacent parts of Virginia on Tuesday evening, at about half past six o'clock. A writer in the Richmond Whigsays:

The sensation to the writer and others, was as if a heavily laden wagon was passing, creating a singular and uncontrollable nervous vibration. About 4 o'clock last evening, a mature hurricane swept by—the wind blew in whirling eddies, stripping the trees of their dry glories—accompanied by some little rain. The writer felt this peculiar nervous shock of an earthquake once before. (It is unlike any other sensation or shock.) It was just after day break, about 1834 or 1835. He was in the depth of the forest, and the sky was cloudless—a field present, called it distant thunders, but was told that the sky was quite clear. On that occasion, the wind shook and the crockery clattered. Whether there was any electric and mysterious connection between the vibration last evening and the election of Pierce and King, political philosophers must decide.

Col. Isaac Wayne, the only son of Major-General Anthony Wayne, of the revolutionary war, died on Monday last, at his residence in Chester county, Pa., in the 83d year of his age. Col. Wayne was an excellent citizen and well worthy of the distinguished name he bore. In early times, he took a prominent part in the politics of the State, and was formerly in the State Senate, besides holding other offices. He was also the candidate for Governor of the Federal party, in 1814, in opposition to Gov. Boyer.

A campfire lamp exploded in Washington, on Sunday night, and severely burnt a servant man.

LATER FROM EUROPE.

FURTHER BY THE STEAMER AFRICA.

The mail brings papers received by the steamer Africa, whose arrival at New York we announce on Friday.

London, Oct. 22d.—The English funds have been somewhat better, and although there has been no actual improvement in prices, the market has closed with a rather more firm appearance. Consols opened at 100 1/4 for money, and 100 1/4 to 3/8 for the account, and remained without any change up to the termination of business. Bank stock left off at 22 1/2 to 23 1/8; Reduced, 89 3/8 to 90 1/8; Three and a quarter Consols, 108 1/4 to 108 1/2; India Stock 2 1/4 to 2 1/2; India Bonds, 85 to 86; and Exchange bills, 75 1/2 premium.

A provisional announcement has appeared of the "London, Liverpool and North American Steamship Company." The steamer of the company will leave London for Liverpool, and thence to New York, for Canada and Newfoundland, from March to October, and during the remainder of the year will call at Portland, Me. The Company is at present provisionally registered under the name of the "London, Liverpool and North American Steamship Company," and has been applied for, and will in all probability be readily secured. The capital is fixed at £200,000 in 250 shares, and the Committee includes some very influential firms connected with American trade.

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